

REMARKS

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated March 19, 2004, the shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 19, 2004. Accordingly, no fee or extension of time are believed due. In the event that the Commissioner determines that an extension of time, or fee is due, such extension is hereby requested and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee to the deposit account of Milbank Tweed (13-3250).

I. **Status of the Claims**

Please amend claims 1,2, 11 and 12 as indicated above. Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as a basis for claim rejections.

II. **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 9-13 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,629). The Examiner has also rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Independent claims 1 and 11 recite dividing a speech segment in a predetermined unit with a phoneme boundary, estimating a power value of each partial speech segment on the basis of a parameter value acquired for each partial speech segment independently, changing the power value of each of the partial speech segments on the basis of the estimated power value, and generating synthesized speech using the changed partial speech segments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that features upon which applicant relies (i.e., power normalization) are not recited in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments were not intended to imply that the pending claims require power normalization, but that Kosaka uses power normalization.

Claims 1 and 11 require estimating a power value of each partial speech segment on the basis of a parameter value acquired for each partial speech segment independently. For example, if a speech segment is CV, the speech segment is divided into C portion and V portion, and the power is separately estimated for both C and V portion.

In Kosaka, with VCV speech segment, a power of C is obtained based on the estimated powers of V at both sides. Kosaka fails to teach or suggest acquiring estimation parameters for respective partial speech segments independently, and therefore the method of Kosaka does not apply for CV, VC or CVC speech segments.

At least for this reason, applicant submits that Kosaka does not anticipate or render obvious the rejected claims.

Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has objected to claims 4-8 and 14-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP



Chris L. Holm
Reg. No.: 39,227

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Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP
1 Chase Manhattan Plaza
New York, NY 10005
(212) 530-5000 / (212) 530-5219 (facsimile)